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9
EXTREMITY
THE FUTURE OF COMICS
25
image
EST. 1992

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SHLUK.

WELL, DOESN'T *THIS* LOOK PROMISING?

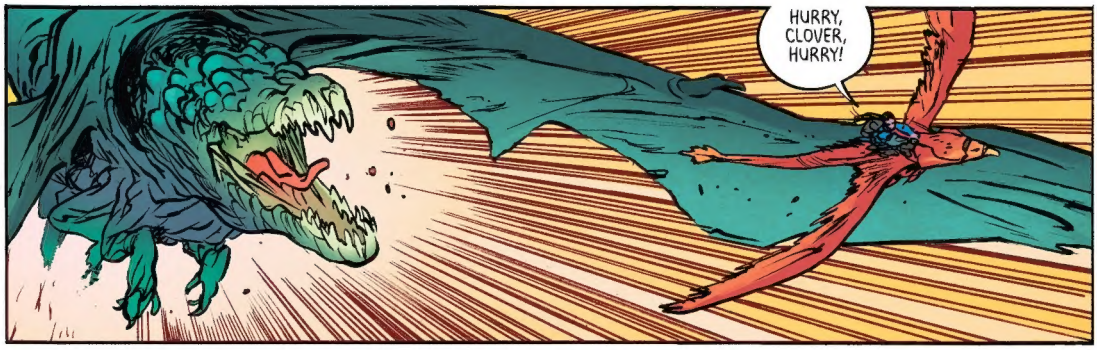
CREAKK

THERE YOU ARE.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

WHO ARE YOU...?

WHY DO YOU DISTURB THIS PLACE OF PEACE?


HURRY, CLOVER, HURRY!

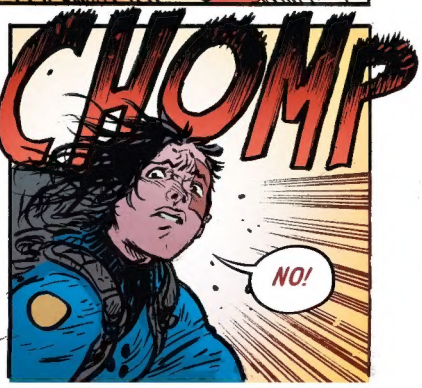
THEA!

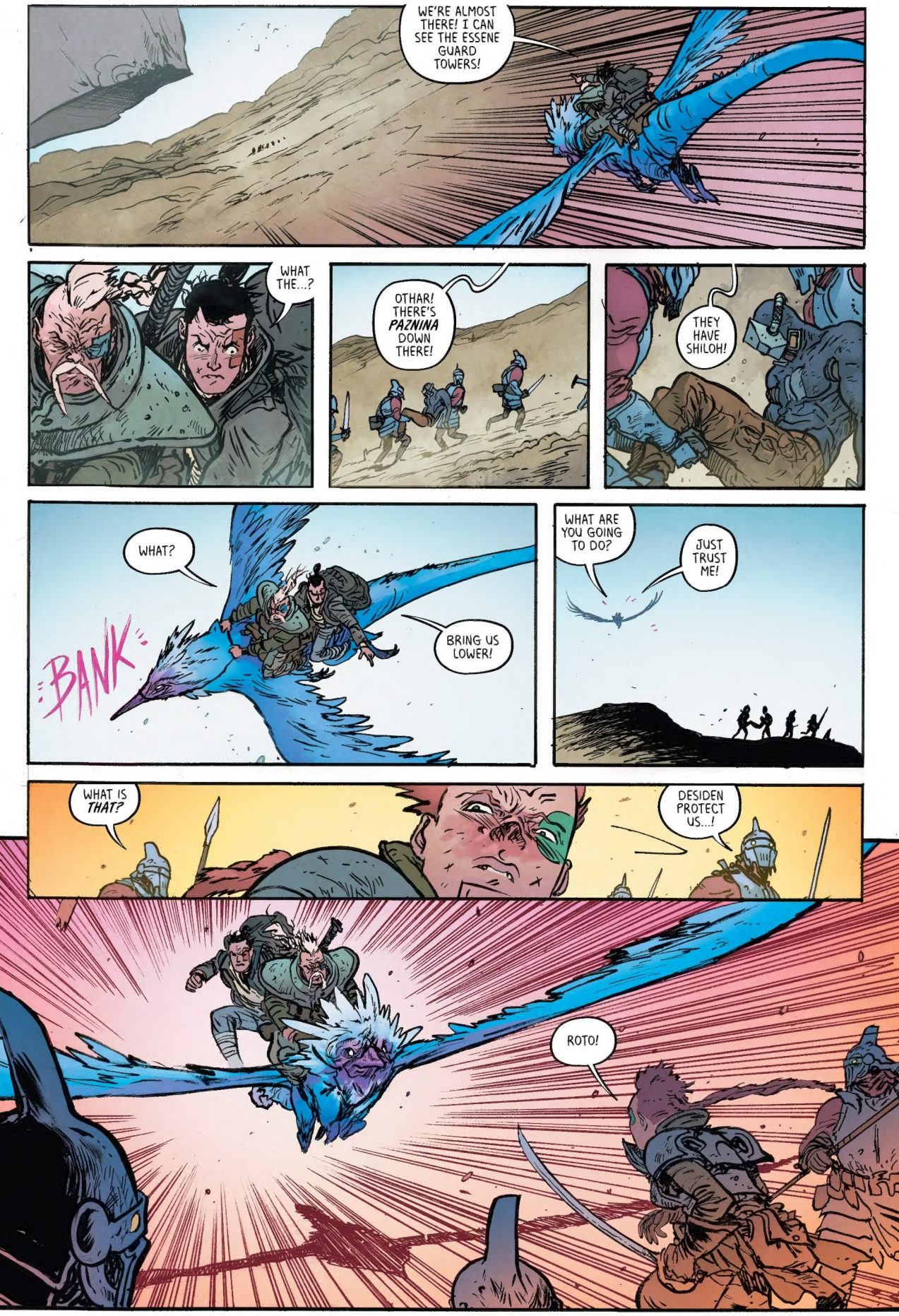
IT'S RIGHT ON US!

RAHHHH!
RIPPO
MESHIBA!

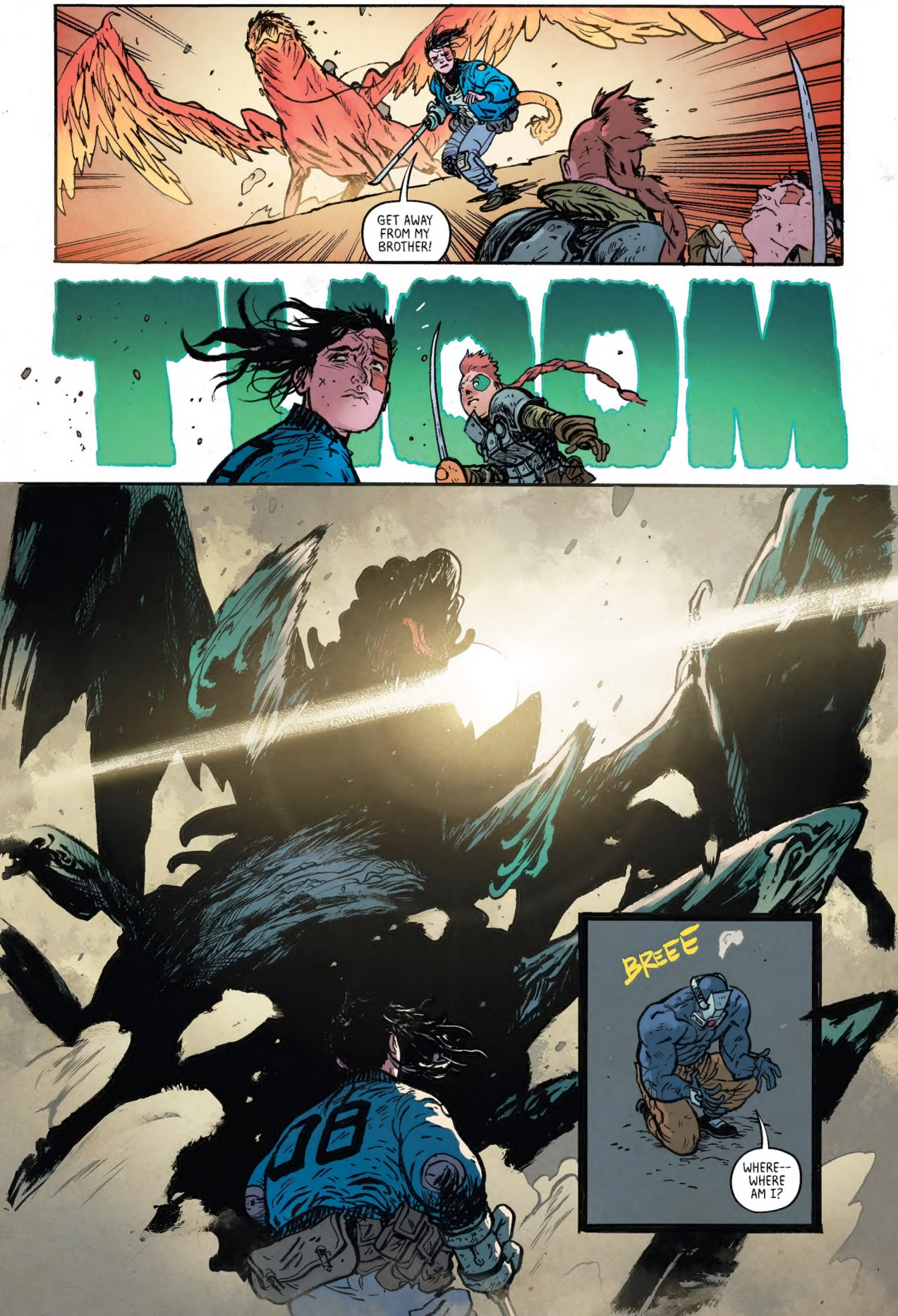
GO, THEA! I CAN HANDLE MYSELF! GET BACK TO THE ESSENE. *REVIVE* YOUR FALLEN FRIEND!

ASK HIM TO *SAVE* US--

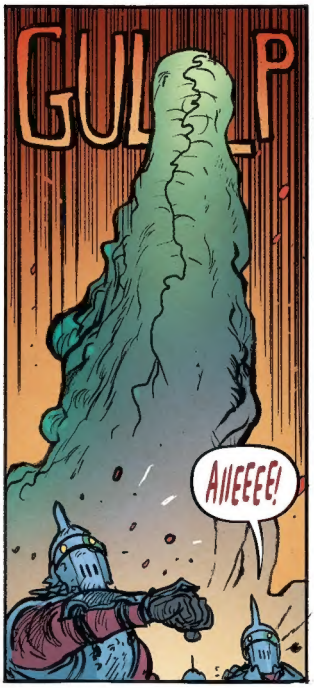

CHOMP
NO!

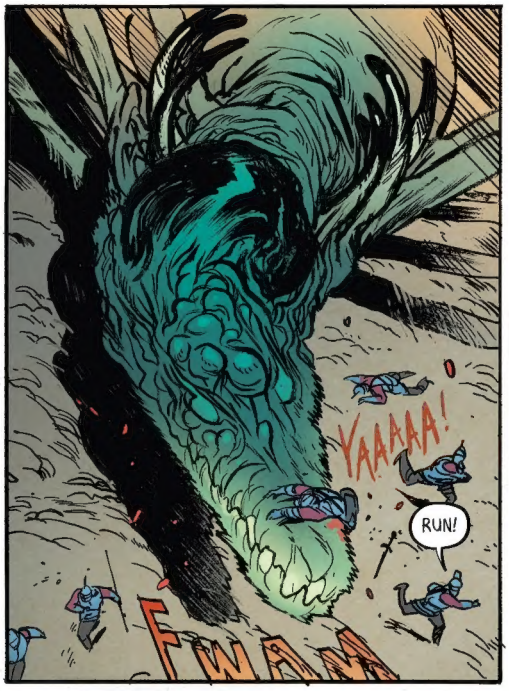

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! I CAN SEE THE ESSENE GUARD TOWERS!
WHAT THE...?
OTHAR! THERE'S *PAZNINA* DOWN THERE!
THEY HAVE SHILOH!
WHAT?
BANK
BRING US LOWER!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
JUST TRUST ME!
WHAT IS *THAT?*
DESIDEN PROTECT US...!
ROTO!

BUMP!
KLAM
ARGH!
ROTO SCUM!
SNATCH!
SHKKK
CLAKT!
FWOK
I'M GOING TO RUIN YOUR FACE, LIKE YOUR FATHER RUINED MINE.
PAZNINA!!!


GET AWAY FROM MY BROTHER!
BREEE
WHERE-- WHERE AM I?

CHOMP
SHILOH!
GET BACK!


GULP
AIIEEEE!


YAAAAA!
RUN!
FWAM

SNAP!

SQUISH

GO! WE'LL HOLD IT OFF HERE!
COME ON!

HOLD YOUR GROUND! PROTECT YOUR PRINCESS!

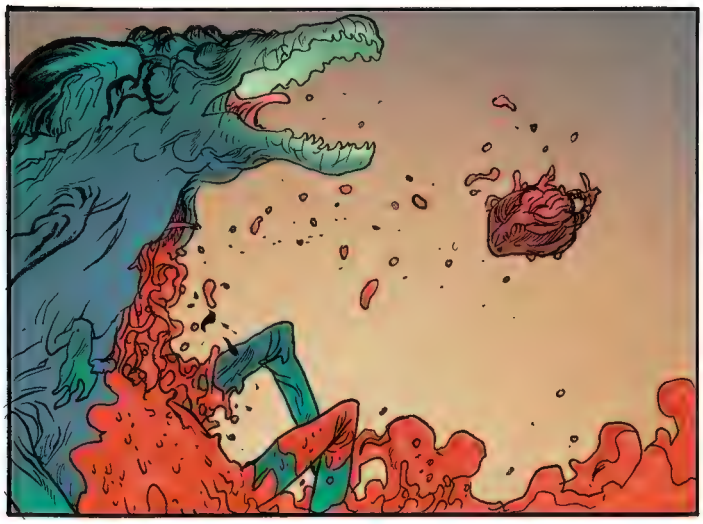
FOR AMITTA CITY, OUR HOME AND REFUGE!
SAVIOR NIM! WE THANK YO--

IT'S GAINING!

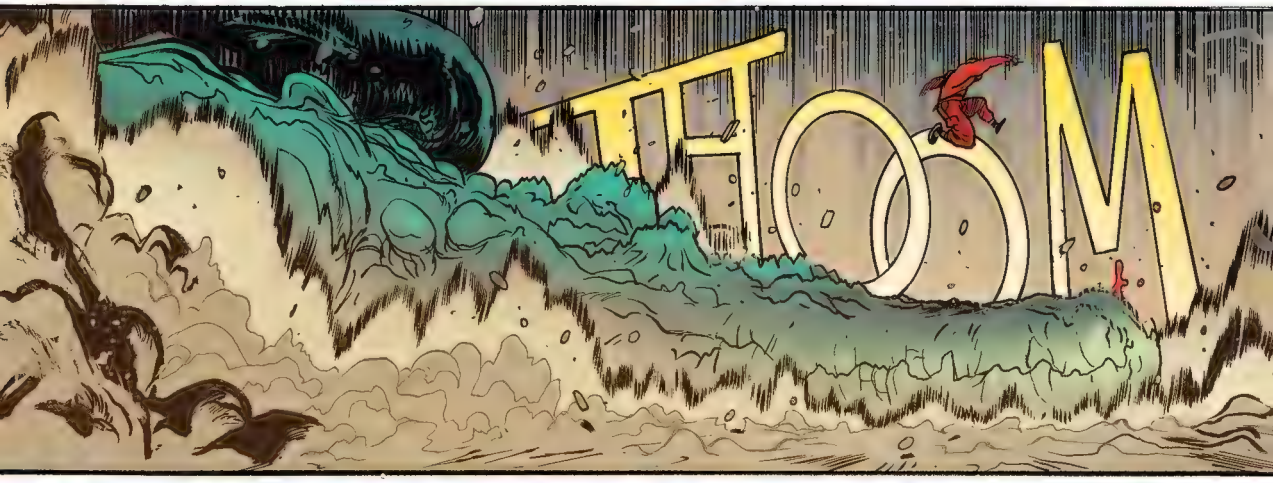
STRETCH!

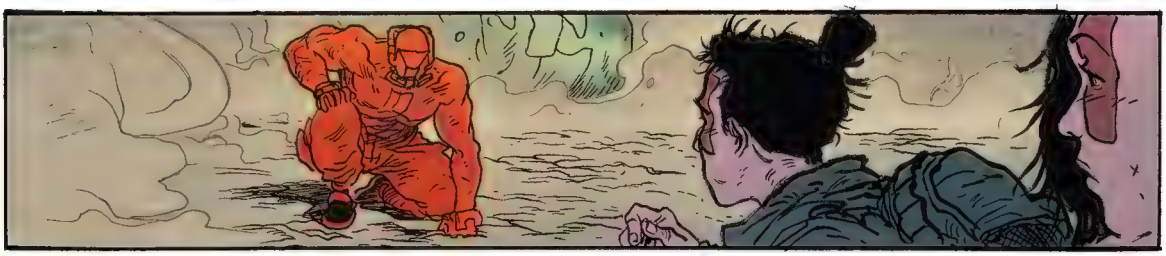
POW
SHRIP

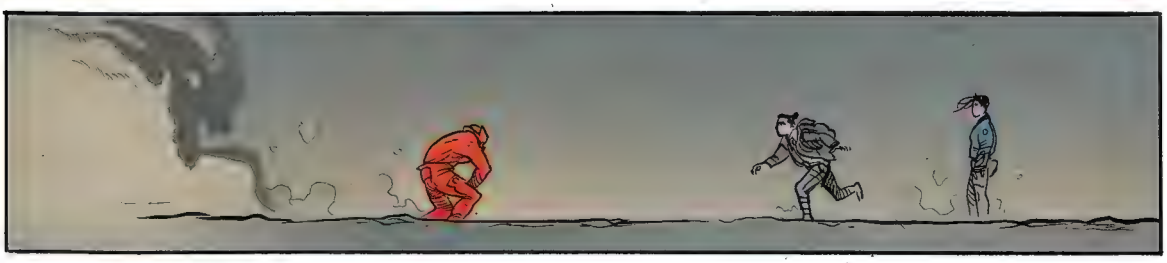
THROW

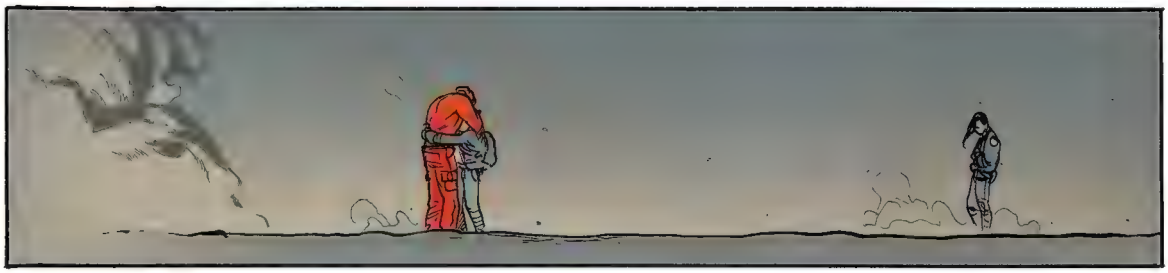


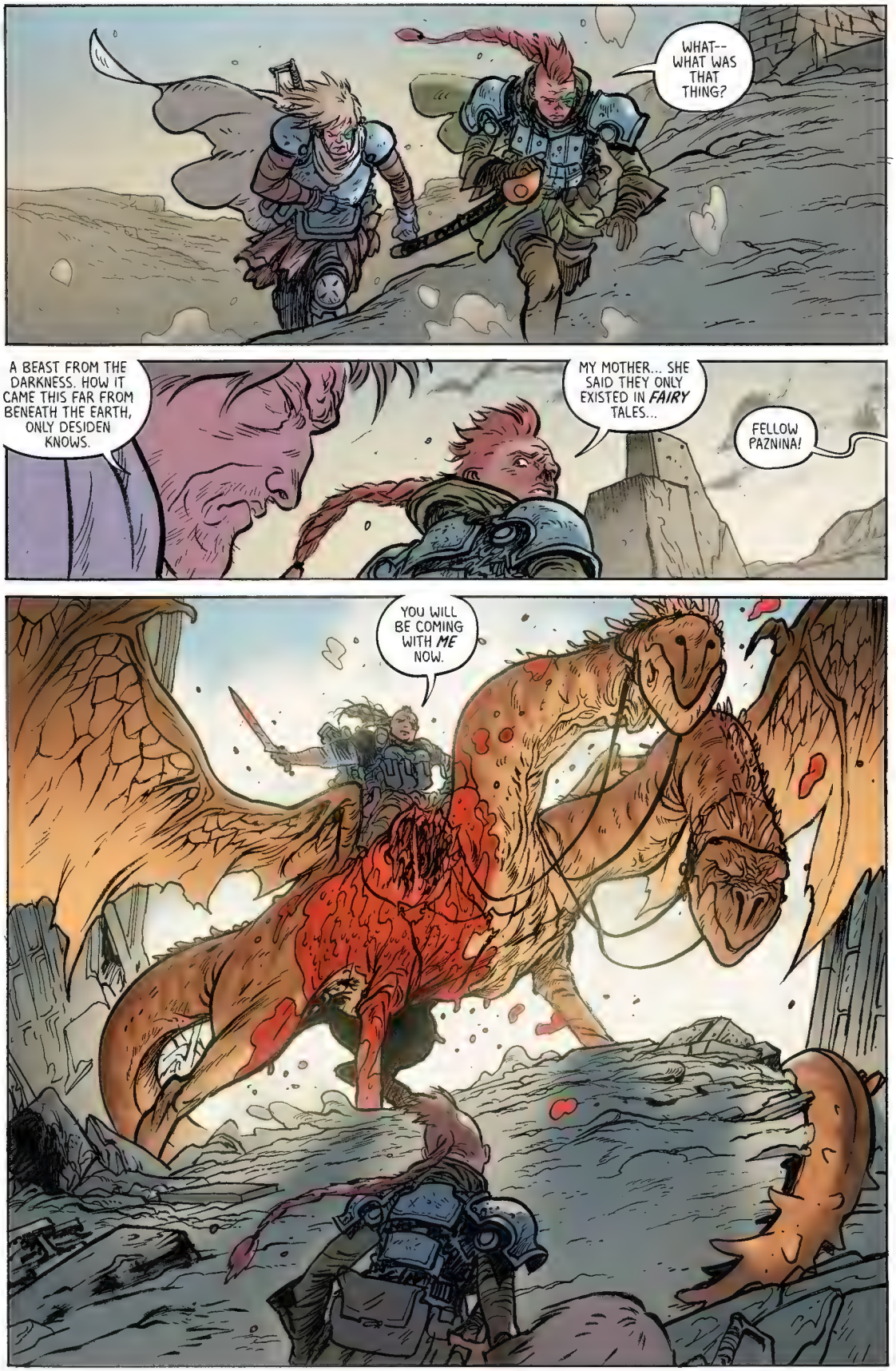
SPLAT


THOOM

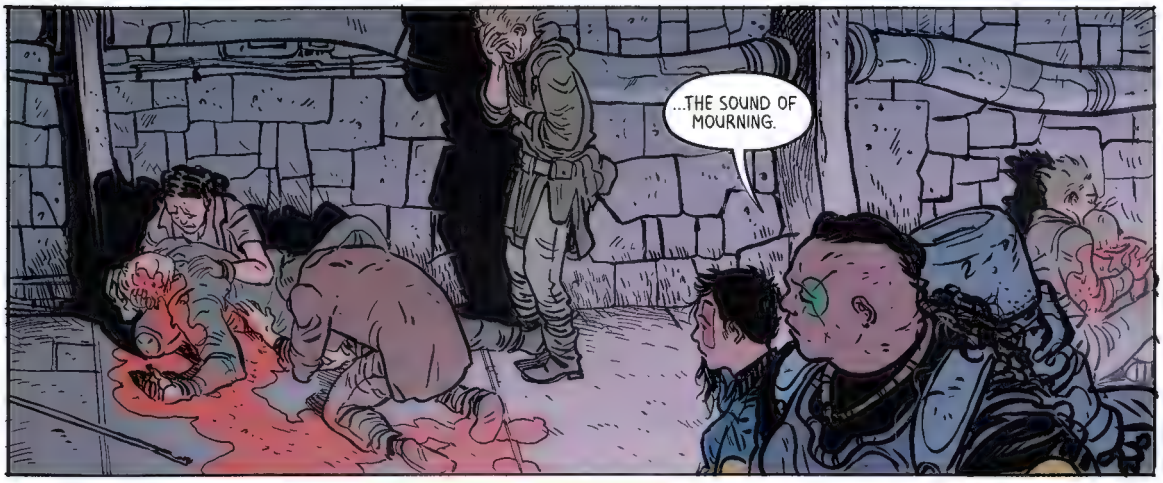


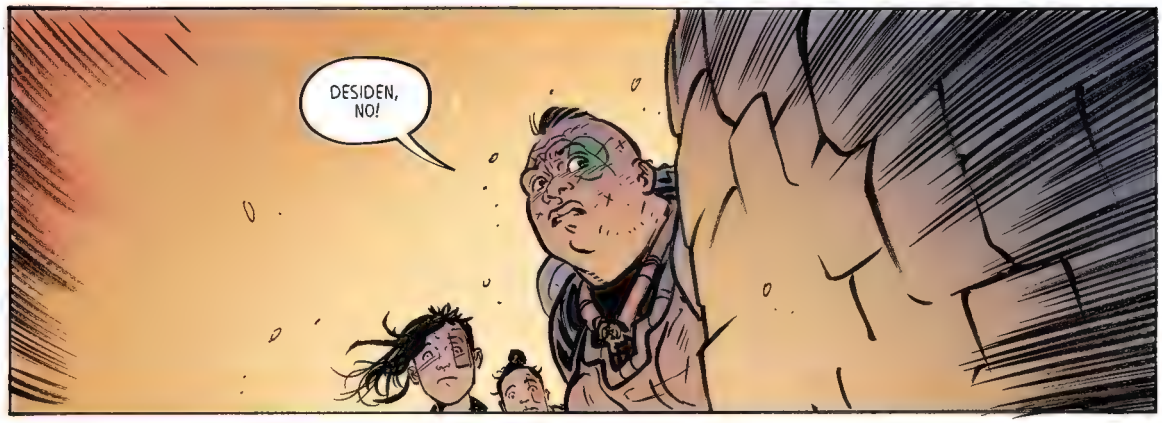




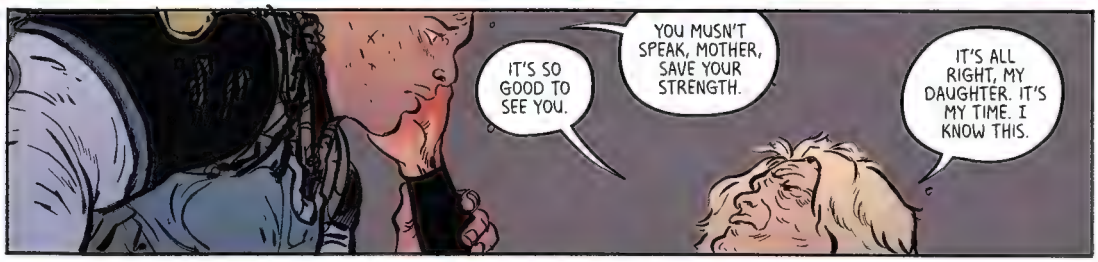

WHAT-- WHAT WAS THAT THING?
A BEAST FROM THE DARKNESS. HOW IT CAME THIS FAR FROM BENEATH THE EARTH, ONLY DESIDEN KNOWS.
MY MOTHER... SHE SAID THEY ONLY EXISTED IN *FAIRY* TALES...
FELLOW PAZNINA!
YOU WILL BE COMING WITH *ME* NOW.

THAT SOUND-- WHAT IS IT?


...THE SOUND OF MOURNING.

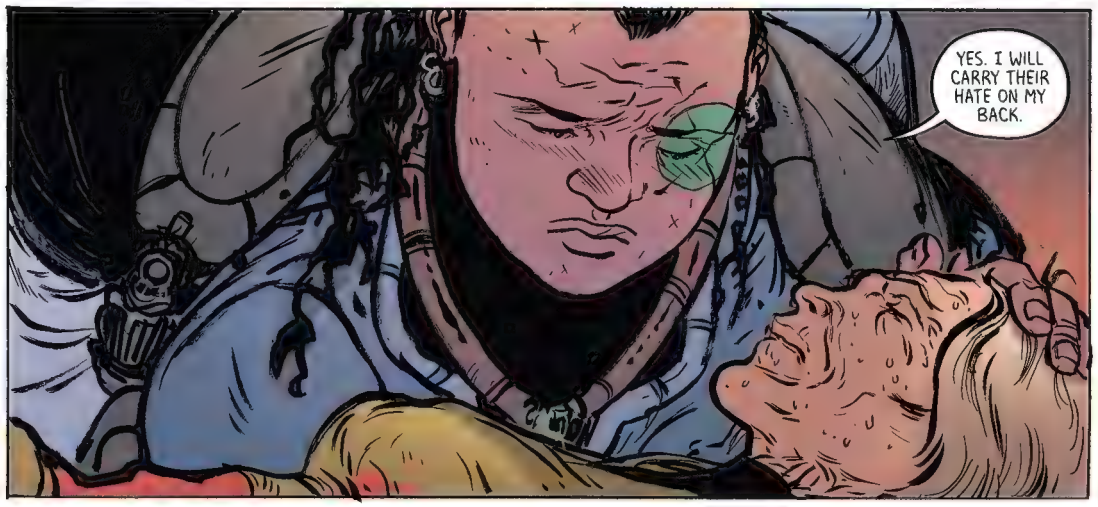

DESIDEN, NO!

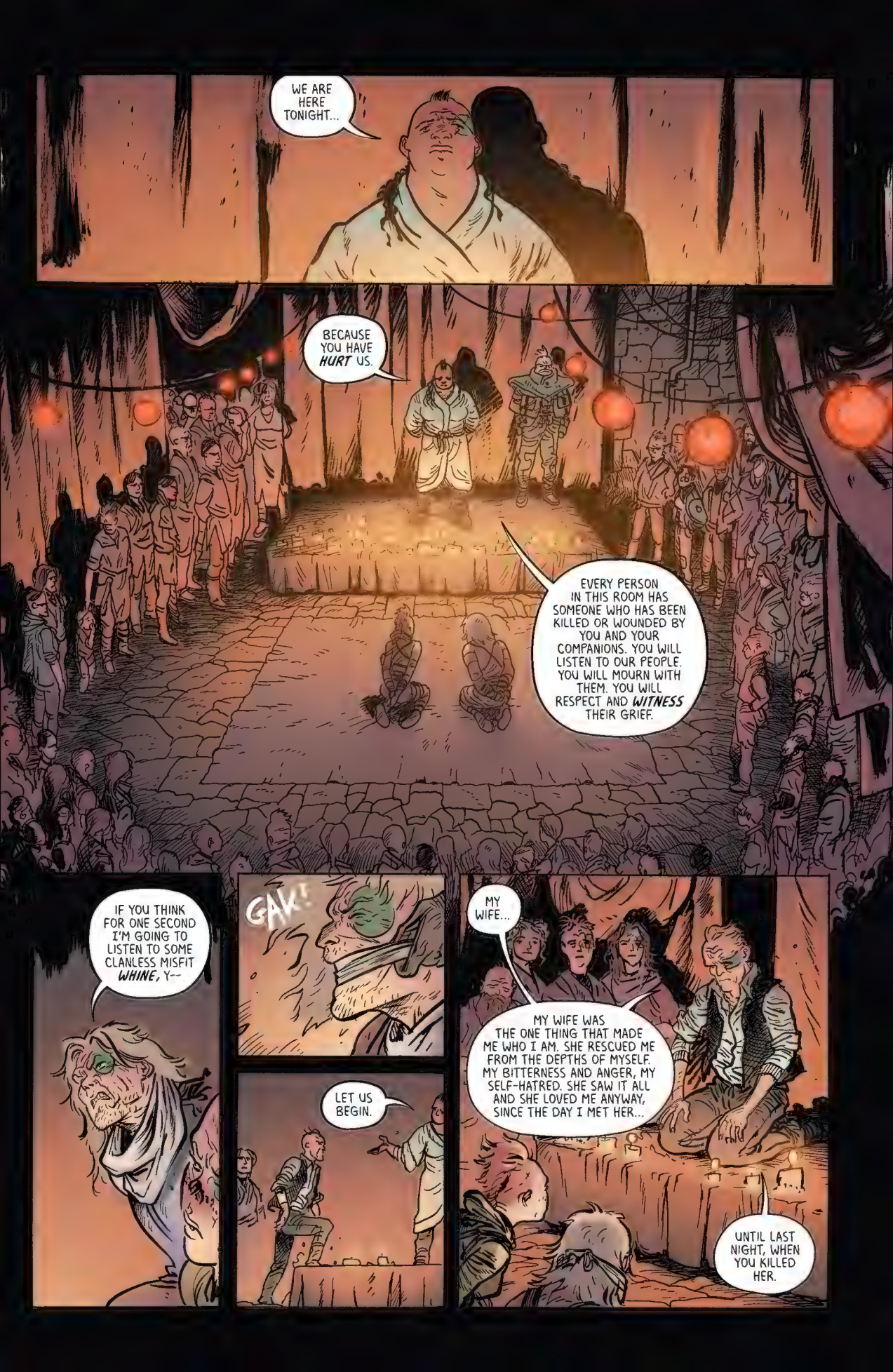
MOTHER!
OH, MESHIBA.

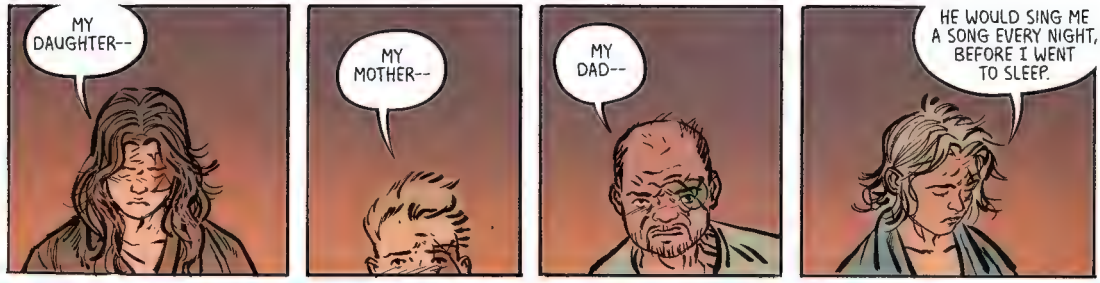

IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU MUSN'T SPEAK, MOTHER, SAVE YOUR STRENGTH.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MY DAUGHTER. IT'S MY TIME. I KNOW THIS.

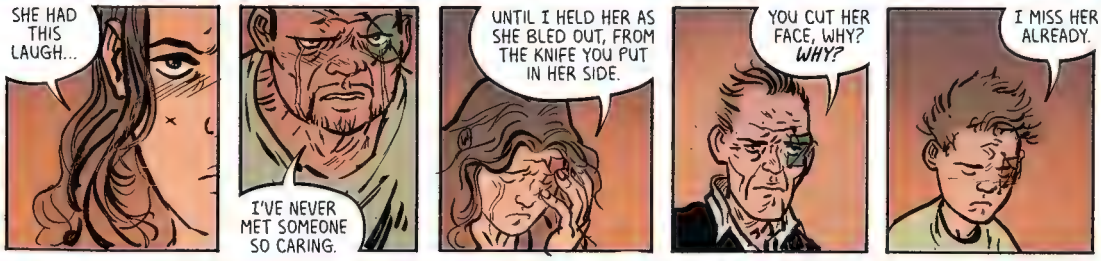
IS THAT WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR ASSAILANTS?
YES, MOTHER.

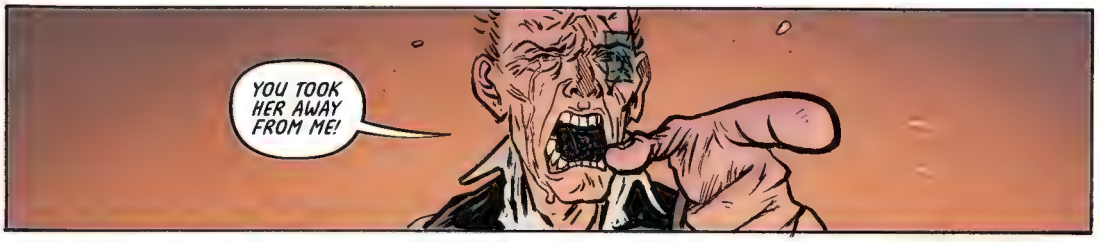
MANY FAMILIES HAVE LOST SOMEONE TODAY BECAUSE OF THEM. OUR PEOPLE NEED SOMEONE TO LEAD. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE MY PLACE. ARE YOU READY TO HOLD THEIR BURDEN?


YES. I WILL CARRY THEIR HATE ON MY BACK.


WE ARE HERE TONIGHT...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE *HURT* US.
EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM HAS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED BY YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS. YOU WILL LISTEN TO OUR PEOPLE. YOU WILL MOURN WITH THEM. YOU WILL RESPECT AND *WITNESS* THEIR GRIEF.
IF YOU THINK FOR ONE SECOND I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO SOME CLANLESS MISFIT *WHINE*, Y--
GAK!
LET US BEGIN.
MY WIFE...
MY WIFE WAS THE ONE THING THAT MADE ME WHO I AM. SHE RESCUED ME FROM THE DEPTHS OF MYSELF. MY BITTERNESS AND ANGER, MY SELF-HATRED. SHE SAW IT ALL AND SHE LOVED ME ANYWAY, SINCE THE DAY I MET HER...
UNTIL LAST NIGHT, WHEN YOU KILLED HER.


MY DAUGHTER--
MY MOTHER--
MY DAD--
HE WOULD SING ME A SONG EVERY NIGHT, BEFORE I WENT TO SLEEP.


SHE HAD THIS LAUGH...
I'VE NEVER MET SOMEONE SO CARING.
UNTIL I HELD HER AS SHE BLED OUT, FROM THE KNIFE YOU PUT IN HER SIDE.
YOU CUT HER FACE, WHY? WHY?
I MISS HER ALREADY.


YOU TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME!

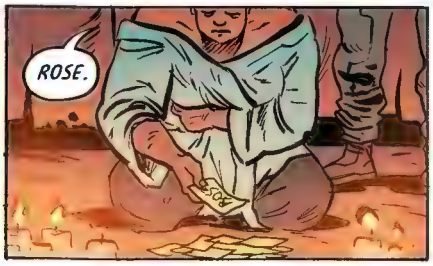
HER NAME...
WAS ROSE.
ROSE
JON
HIS NAME WAS JON.
MARY
MARY.
STEPHEN.
TESSA.
THOMAS.
JEB.
GRENDA.

BECAUSE OF YOU, THESE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. INSTEAD OF PEACE, YOU BROUGHT US TEARS AND BLOOD. THERE IS NOW A DEBT YOU OWE TO US.
WE ARE ESSENE. WE DO NOT WISH MORE DEATH, MORE SUFFERING, EVEN FOR THE ONES WHO CAUSED SUCH THINGS.
BUT THESE NAMES MUST BE REMEMBERED. THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR THEIR LIVES.

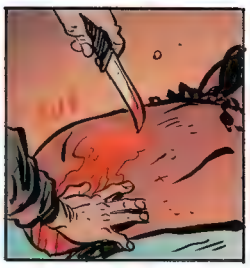
ARE YOU READY?

YES.
SHLING!

THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE HURT TODAY ARE IN GREAT PAIN. THEY DESIRE TO HURT YOU IN RETRIBUTION. AS LEADER OF ALL ESSENE, I NOW TAKE THAT ANGER FROM THEM, AND CARRY THEIR HATE ON MY BACK...
...IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU FROM THEIR WRATH.

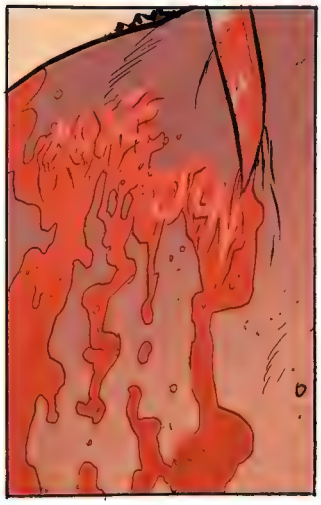

ROSE.

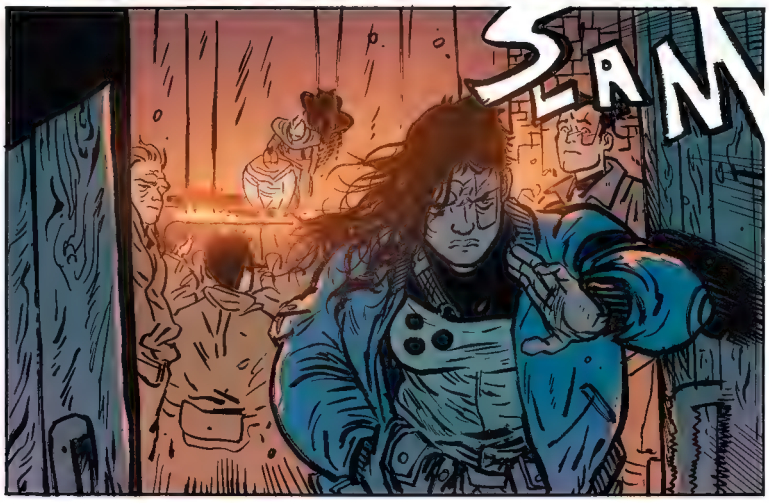
ROSE!



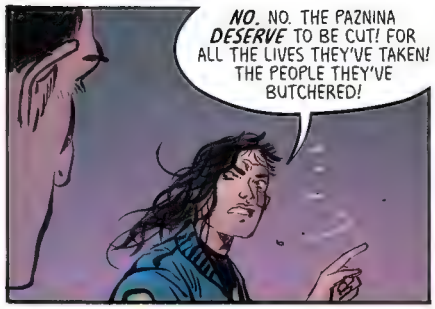
JON.

JOH

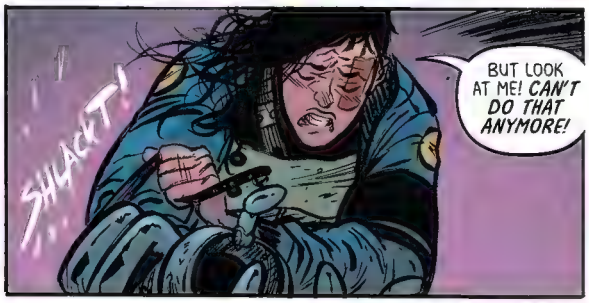



SLAM

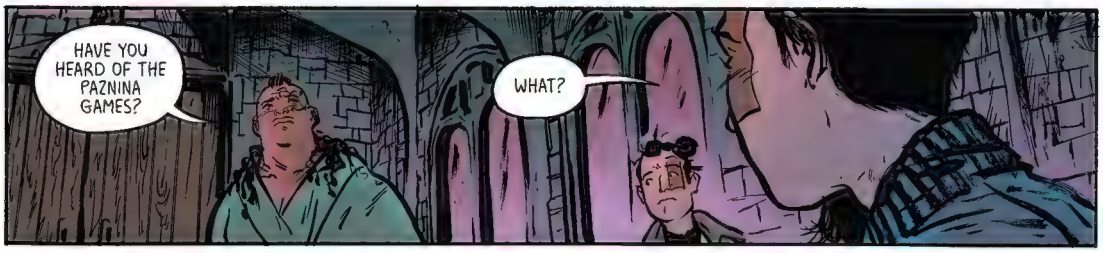
THIS IS HOW THEY KEEP THEIR PEACE? BY CUTTING UP INNOCENT PEOPLE? GOOD PEOPLE?
THEA--


NO. NO. THE PAZNINA DESERVE TO BE CUT! FOR ALL THE LIVES THEY'VE TAKEN! THE PEOPLE THEY'VE BUTCHERED!

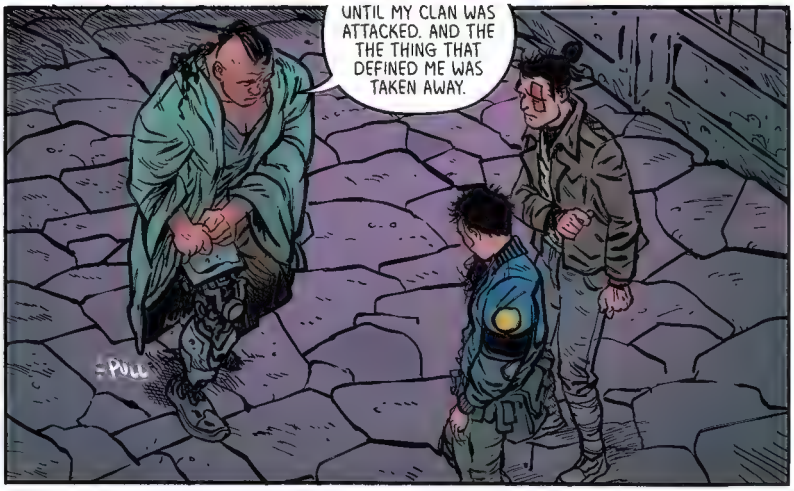
MOTHER DIEDRE TOLD ME THAT I WAS AN ARTIST. THAT WHO I AM WAS MEANT TO CREATE THINGS. BEAUTIFUL THINGS!

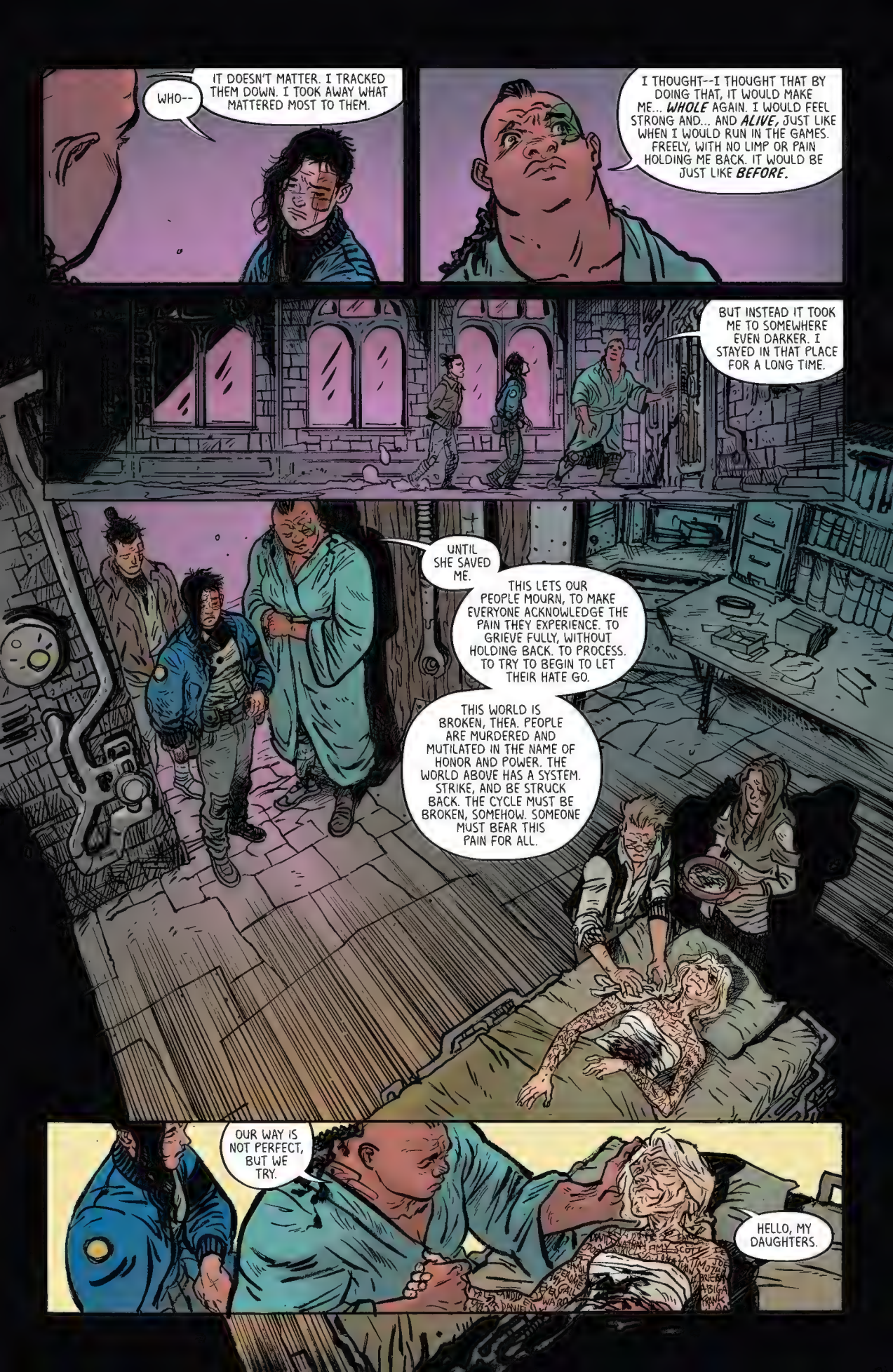

SHLACKT!
BUT LOOK AT ME! CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE!

I AM NOTHING NOW! A SCARRED BACK IS GOING TO MAKE THIS BETTER?
NO. IT NEVER WILL.


HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE PAZNINA GAMES?
WHAT?

EVERY YEAR, THE STRONGEST AND FASTEST PAZNINA ARE INVITED TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER. SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I HAD SHOWN AN APTITUDE FOR PHYSICAL FEATS. AS I GREW, I BECAME THE BEST COMPETITOR IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD.

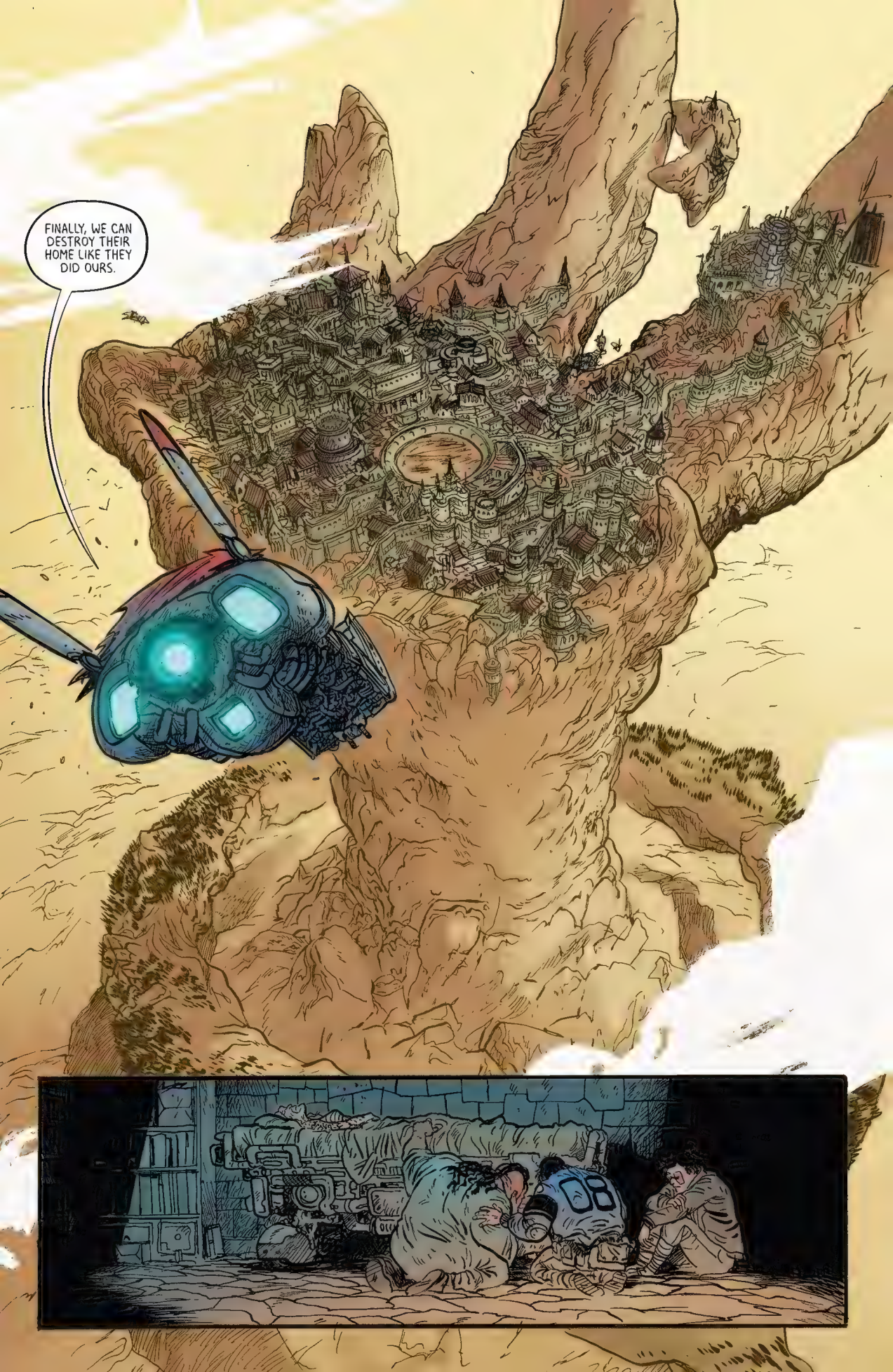

UNTIL MY CLAN WAS ATTACKED. AND THE THE THING THAT DEFINED ME WAS TAKEN AWAY.
PULL


WHO--
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I TRACKED THEM DOWN. I TOOK AWAY WHAT MATTERED MOST TO THEM.
I THOUGHT--I THOUGHT THAT BY DOING THAT, IT WOULD MAKE ME... WHOLE AGAIN. I WOULD FEEL STRONG AND... AND ALIVE, JUST LIKE WHEN I WOULD RUN IN THE GAMES. FREELY, WITH NO LIMP OR PAIN HOLDING ME BACK. IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE BEFORE.
BUT INSTEAD IT TOOK ME TO SOMEWHERE EVEN DARKER. I STAYED IN THAT PLACE FOR A LONG TIME.
UNTIL SHE SAVED ME.
THIS LETS OUR PEOPLE MOURN, TO MAKE EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAIN THEY EXPERIENCE. TO GRIEVE FULLY, WITHOUT HOLDING BACK. TO PROCESS. TO TRY TO BEGIN TO LET THEIR HATE GO.
THIS WORLD IS BROKEN, THEA. PEOPLE ARE MURDERED AND MUTILATED IN THE NAME OF HONOR AND POWER. THE WORLD ABOVE HAS A SYSTEM. STRIKE, AND BE STRUCK BACK. THE CYCLE MUST BE BROKEN, SOMEHOW. SOMEONE MUST BEAR THIS PAIN FOR ALL.
OUR WAY IS NOT PERFECT, BUT WE TRY.
HELLO, MY DAUGHTERS.

I WANT TO BE RENAMED.
WHAT?
I WANT TO BE RENAMED BY MOTHER DIEDRE...
THEA, MOTHER CAN'T--
YOU TOLD ME THAT I WAS AN ARTIST. THAT WHO I AM WAS MEANT TO CREATE THINGS. BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
BUT IF I'M NOT AN ARTIST, THEN WHAT AM I?
BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE I AM NOTHING.
VERY WELL.

WHEN THE LAND WAS TAKEN BY DARKNESS...
DESIDEN, IN HIS GREAT WISDOM, MADE THE GREAT PLAINS RISE TO THE SKY, AND GAVE US NEW LIVES, BROUGHT OUT OF THE CRUST OF THE EARTH.
MAY HE WATCH OVER US, GUIDE US, GIVE US OUR TRUE SELVES, NEW BEINGS, BORN IN THE SKY.
THEA OF THE ROTO PLAIN, I NAME YOU...
ARTI--
DRIP!
WHAT IS IT?
DESIDEN'S HANDS. THE SIGN OF MANY MEANINGS.
BUT--WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR *ME?*
COME *CLOSER,* THEA

HNGG!
MOTHER!
DON'T LEAVE US! PLEASE!
I'M SO...
...PROUD OF YOU, MESHIBA.
AMITTA CITY IS IN SIGHT, SIR.
THE PAZNINA CAPITAL.


FINALLY, WE CAN DESTROY THEIR HOME LIKE THEY DID OURS.

Hey there, readers,

One of the most difficult elements of writing EXTREMITY was how Thea would witness another way to grieve, that was unlike her father's destructive path. The scene you read this issue took quite a few rewrites, and even more time playing out in my head before I started typing. I finally had a breakthrough when I went to a group gathering of people from my church in Chicago, to say goodbye to one of our members who was moving to a different city. This person had been through immense physical and emotional pain during her Chicago years, and wanted to start fresh. In order to do that, we gathered around her, and we witnessed her grieve. It sounds strange, and it felt intense and uncomfortable standing there, watching a person scream out to God and the world. But we were there to support her, and every time she wept out a trauma she had experienced, one of us wrote it down on a piece of paper. Before the night was over, as we held her, she put every one of those papers into a bonfire we had made. It didn't fix everything, she was still in agony in many ways, but she was heard. None of us told her to stop crying, none of us said it will be okay. We just made sure she wasn't alone.

I don't like talking too much about the artistic inspiration I get from my own life. I'd rather let the stories speak for themselves, and the readers can take them whichever way they see it. But telling stories, in my opinion, is a way to grieve, to try and understand this world. And grieving brings us together in a strange, horrible, beautiful way. And that's what I tried to do with Thea.

On to letters.

Dear Amazing Group Who Bring Us Extremity,

I have never written a letter to a comic book before but I feel compelled. I love this book. I have geared my Comic book store experience to make sure my local store sells this. I love the flaws of the characters because it makes them so real to me. Thea is a personal favorite of mine. I feel close to her as a creator who has also lost her mother. My art comes from cosplay as opposed to drawing for the most part. It has been a point of pride to me to create a Thea cosplay and I am continuing to work on it. Please keep this book going. I can not wait to see where it ends up! Would love to meet you all at a convention someday!

Thank you,
-EmmaginationCosplay

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO
EXTREMITY@SKYBOUND.COM

Thank you so much for your openness in your letter. I'm so glad that Thea has spoken to you in a way that means something. I was worried that I wouldn't represent her well enough in the story, because I haven't experienced anywhere near the amount of loss that so many others have, but my wife told me as long as I was being honest with myself and Thea's voice, I had nothing to worry about. Thank you for proving her right! It's also been wonderful to meet more cosplayers at comic shows and hear what drives them to make such wonderful pieces of art, however different from mine. Please show me your Thea cosplay whenever it's finished, I'd love to see it!

I love the number of Thea cosplayers I've seen at shows since the summer. Please tweet pics to @Skybound so we can show them off to our fans.

Extremity embodies why I've loved comics since i was a little kid. It's a beautiful example of the freedom this medium can produce when a creator is at the helm of his or her project without the meddling a larger presence, a reason why Image and by extension- Skybound- is putting out such quality pieces. Down to the slightest detail, Extremity is excellent; the art is phenomenal, this story is a masterpiece unfolding right before our eyes and I love it to bits. The characters are so layered right out of the gate that I just want to keep reading and reading, I can feel the pain of Thea as she loses her tool of expression, an act that (to me) symbolizes her growing up in a time of war and losing her innocence in a time where innocence will get her killed. Jerome, the chief who has lost so much to his oppressors, just trying to secure a life for his son and daughter that's free, he's lost so much yet

his duty outweighs his personal needs and the reader feels his crushing ambition every time he speaks. Masterful storytelling and world building, As someone who loves art, someone who creates art in the form of illustrations and short stories, I thank you truly for showing me what can be done with love and ambition. This comic is an inspiration too me and i'll be following Extremity doggedly.

A Lifetime Fan,
Keegan Gallite

Thanks, Keegan. It's great to see how many of our readers also enjoy creating art. I certainly do, whether it's writing or collaborating with our roster of super talented creators. I just got back from the Lucca Comics & Games festival in Italy, where I got to talk about what it's like to create comics at Skybound. I talk about this subject a lot, and I really try not to take for granted how unique and amazing the results can be; EXTREMITY is definitely emblematic of that process.

I can also vouch for the creative process here at Skybound. Sean and Arielle have been nothing but supportive over the past two years, helping make this book not only a reality, but a book we can all be proud of. It also makes my day to hear that EXTREMITY has helped inspire you in your own artistic journey! That's one of the best things I could ever hear from a reader, hands down.

Hey Guys,

I finally caught up with the first 5 issues of your book at the insistence of my son and wanted to say how great it is. I like the direction the story is heading, and can't wait to see where it's going. Many subtleties to catch too, I've read back through the story-so-far a couple times now. I Love the art too, great panel layout and perspectives, fantastic character design, stellar covers. I can't tell you enough how much I like this book. Well done, I hope you get the recognition you deserve!

Brent

PS- Owen is on a roll, his last recommendation was 4 Kids Walk Into a Bank. I won't sleep on his next pick.

Sounds like you got a pretty cool son. Thanks to both of you for reading us.

Thanks for your letter, Brent, and thank you, Owen, for pushing my book on your dad! Honestly, it feels so good to hear that you read my story more than once. I only do that with books and comics I truly enjoy, so thanks for sharing that. And also, read *4 Kids Walk Into a Bank*, it's a great book!

Hey guys!

So yea, things got crazy here, I'm starting to agree with what that soldier said at the end, surviving is what the Rollo's are good at. Although the rest of their clan is starting to prove otherwise...

Also, glad to see you've started owning the name Sean, we can be Extremists without being too extreme!

I'm curious to see how exactly the world came to be. Is it like star wars and it's a long time ago in a galaxy far far away? Or is it really earth in the future after mankind failed to exterminate itself?

See you next month!

Just another Extremist,
Andi Tiscareno
El Paso, Texas

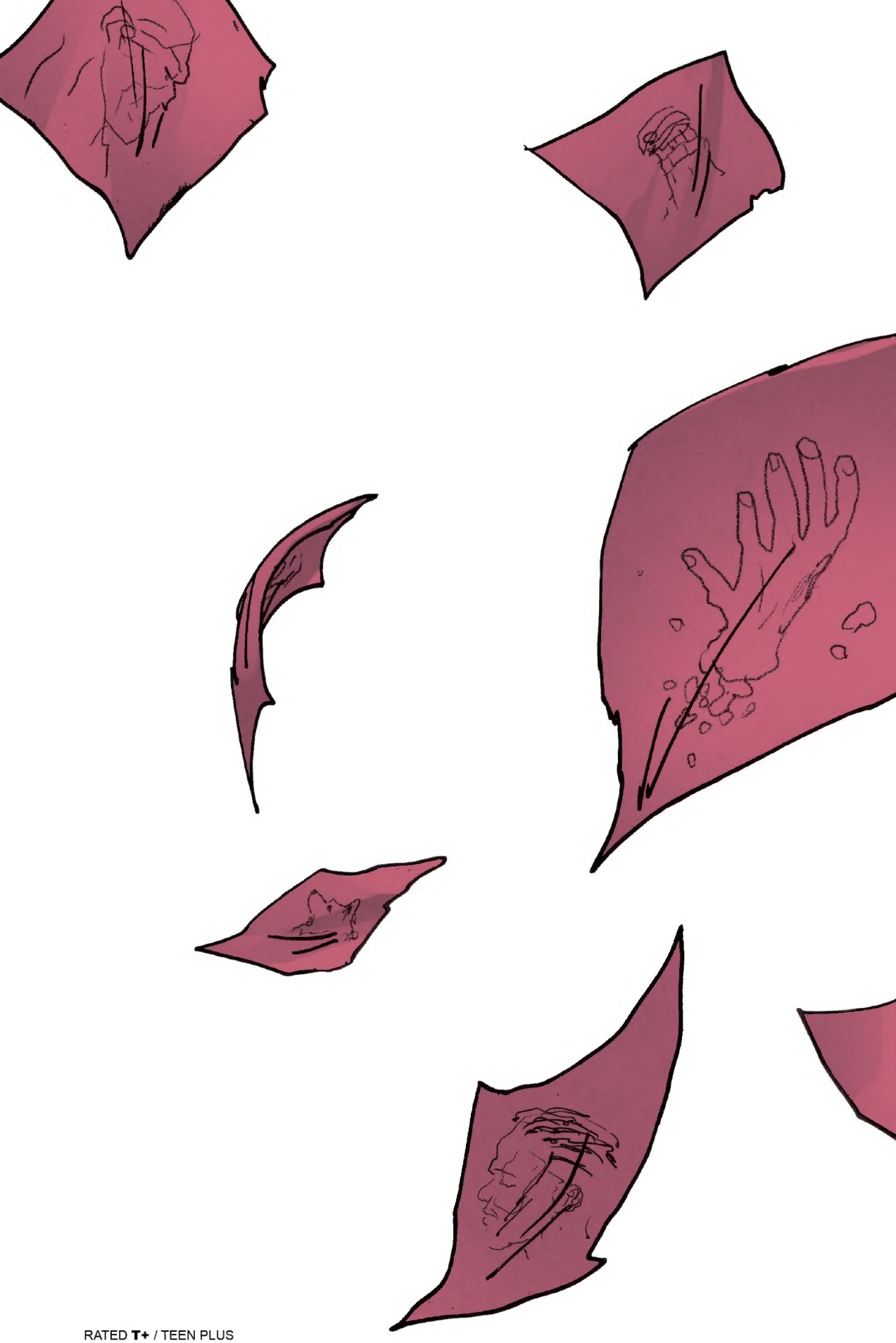
Great question, Andi. I purposefully didn't go into detail on the history of the world because I wanted people to decide what it was on their own terms. For me, I consider it to be a planet that was much like Earth currently, but continued down a destructive path that ended as The Risen Plains. Thanks for your letter and continued support!

Jump into the new year with a new issue of EXTREMITY! We'll be back in 2018, when Thea and crew uncover one of the greatest secrets of the Ancient Dark.

-Sean Mackiewicz
@seanmackiewicz

And what a year it's been! Thanks, readers, for supporting this book and making my dreams possible. Before I go, I wanted to tell you about a video put together by my art rep, Felix Comic Art. He filmed me drawing the cover to issue #8 of EXTREMITY, which you can find on his YouTube page. Otherwise, have a wonderful holiday and see you back here in January!

-Daniel Warren Johnson
@danielwarrenart



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